

GALLIA NEWS

Issue 1

September 2009



Welcome to the First YCA & Hadfield Newsletter!

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Does your child need extra study support with Maths, Science and English? Burngreave After School Study Support is the best pit stop for your child's education progress - Read more inside on page 4

Enrol for ESOL, ICT and Citizenship courses. Enrolment is from the 1st to the 24th September 2009 for all projects - See page 6

Learn about the harmful effects of Qat in the Yemeni community - Pg 5

Hadfield offers support and guidance on employment and is enrolling for new courses - Read more on page 6

The Advice Centre in Fir Vale also gives help with Welfare & Advice.

Voluntary work is always available both at the YCA or Hadfield Institute, see page 6 and 7 for contact details.

THE YCA CELEBRATES UNIVERSITY SUCCESS

On the 15th May 2009 The Yemeni Community Association (YCA) organised a special celebration to recognise members of the Yemeni community who had recently graduated from university. The number of Yemeni graduates has increased in recent years.



The ceremony was attended by guest of honors, MP Richard Carbon, Councillor Steve Jones and John Bradley from Sheffield Museums, who has dedicated a lot of time and effort to the Yemeni Community. MP Richard Carbon has a special connection with the Yemeni community. He spoke about how the Yemeni community has developed since the decline of the steel industry, and he believed that the younger generation are moving it in the right direction.

An inspirational speech from Murcilla Mosleh, celebrated the educational achievements of women. Murcilla said:

"Islamically there is nothing that prohibits a woman from achieving any material goal a man is capable of achieving. Allah has created us with the same intelligence and brain capacity, we have the same rights."

I am a Yemeni woman and I love my culture and my roots. Is there anything that prevents me from achieving my dreams and goals? - certainly not.

My undergraduate years have been amazingly great Alhamdulillah [thanks be to Allah] I have met people from all over the world, and have had the opportunity to develop my character through my experiences."

The Yemeni Community Association Sheffield (YCA), was established in 1980 to support the Yemeni community. During this time there was a radical cut in employment within the steel industry which led to high unemployment rates. Many members of the Yemeni community were hindered, both by their lack of English and with the struggle to adapt to the changes in their lives.

Time for change!

Projects were developed to meet the required needs.

English classes and the advice facilities were amongst the services delivered. As the community has expanded and changed so too have the needs. The YCA now delivers strong projects that are recognised for their quality and impact in the community.

Full steam ahead!

Through the hard and collective work of both the managers and the trustees, the YCA is now recognised as one of Sheffield's most active, reputable and strongest BME (Black & Minority Ethnic) organisation.

Meet the Chairperson of the YCA

The Chairman of YCA speaks about his role and what he hopes the future holds for YCA.

"I became chairman in March 2007 when I was recommended and invited to join the board of Trustees. When I started as Chair it was always my intention to make the YCA more open and inclusive and to be closer to the ordinary members of the community.

We are now in the process of registering members. Anyone wishing to vote has to be a registered member. So far there have been many changes and we hope there will be more to make the YCA more inclusive and open to everyone who can offer something to the community.

I would urge young people to get involved and I will be encouraging and supportive of anyone who wishes to do so.

I believe we need to be united to face the challenges as a community in the UK. Education must be given greater importance. Every young person should have some form of qualification. We must set the standards high and we must always believe in our abilities and achieve to our full potential."



Saleh Ali Alnoud

Chairperson
Yemeni Community Association

Meet the first Female Chief Executive of the YCA

As the recently appointed Chief Executive, I am striving to enhance its success and push forward my visions for the future. I initially started off as a Development Worker in 2002, working for the YCA to provide activities for women.

I quickly progressed to manage Adult Learning and the Advice Centre. My new role is challenging but rewarding and I feel proud to have become the first woman to direct all the services available at the YCA. These include the Arabic School, Welfare and Advice Centre, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes, Study Support, ICT classes and the childcare facility.

The last ten years have seen the YCA develop into one of the strongest black organisations in Sheffield. I am committed to ensure all services are delivered professionally, demonstrating accountability and transparency. Our aim is to bring the organisation into the 21st century, engaging both young, old, male and female.

I understand the history of the YCA and believe we have a lot more work to do for the organisation to be respected both in the community and in the city.

Ibtisam Mohammed

Chief Executive
Yemeni Community Association



Membership of YCA

The Yemeni Community Association is currently recruiting individual members from all sections of the Yemeni Community. We want the community to be more involved in the organisation that is here to support them.

Membership will give you the right to vote at the organisation's general meetings and will also give you the right to be nominated.

For more information, please contact Rosa Salim on (0114) 256 0933 or drop in at Yemeni Community Association (YCA), Fir Vale Centre, 2nd Floor, Earl Marshal Road.

Education: Arabic School & Fir Vale Pre-School

Arabic School

Here at the Yemeni Community Association we believe that the Arabic School is the best place for your child to learn Arabic. The school has different classes for children of different levels. The Arabic School has grown in size.

It offers a professional and structured curriculum, high quality materials and resources and a dedicated group of Arabic teachers helping all children to read, write, speak and understand Arabic.

We are confident that should you choose to enrol your child, you will very soon notice a vast improvement in his or her command of the Arabic language. It is an essential part of your child's learning and development of their mother tongue. The curriculum includes: Arabic speaking listening reading and writing, Islamic studies, Maths, Geography and history of the Middle East.

For information about enrolling your child at the Arabic school please contact Musaid Al-Hakam on (0114) 303 0144.



Fir Vale Pre-School

Lena Mohamed provides an insight into the triumph of the Childcare Centre:

The Fir Vale pre-school is an OFSTED registered childcare setting which provides childcare for working parents or parents who access training. It is a multicultural community nursery which was co-founded by Ibtisam Mohamed.

The Pre-school has had a name change, internal renovation and has currently secured funding to build a brand new playground! The Pre-school has successfully acquired the status as a childcare link provider to the local Children's centre. The Pre-school works in partnership with Sure Start, Sheffield Community Childcare Forum, Sheffield City Council and other local organisations. All staff are qualified and work with the guiding principles in the EYFS curriculum.

The Pre-school offers free nursery places for eligible children who are between 3-5 yrs old. We have also successfully negotiated to be part of the Citywide 2 year pilot scheme which allows eligible 2 year olds to receive free childcare for 15hrs a week.



The Pre-school has 38 places for children aged 6 months – 5 years and it provides wrap around care from 8am - 6pm Mondays to Fridays. For more information about the Fir Vale Pre-School or if you are interested in registering your child please contact (0114) 303 0147

Arabic Dance

The YCA Arabic school and Burngreave After School Study Support Project performed a dance and drama show to reflect the diversity within the Yemeni community. A community of two halves demonstrated through dance and drama.

The Arabic school also develops a celebration event once a year in which they celebrate the achievements and progresses of the young people. The staff and children work tremendously hard to prepare costumes dance routines, and scripts in time for the show.



Burngreave After School Study Support Project

The After School Study Support Project was set up in September 2003 with the aim to provide extra tuition and support to young people from ethnic minorities; particularly children living in the Burngreave area. The Study support has proven to help children get an extra 2 GCSE's.

The project aims to:

- Raise the achievements, improve learning skills and enhance the motivation to learn, fully integrate and thrive in mainstream education
- Identify specific pupils in schools with particular learning needs and to set up a referral system with schools
- Provide extra tuition with GCSE subjects; Maths, IT, English & Science
- Work with families and schools to ensure the project's continued success and to sustain their support in all aspects of their child's learning
- Liaise with external agencies to create better links and to work together to meet the needs of pupils.

The projects deliver 9 hours a week of study support for 40 weeks a year to around 300 primary and secondary-aged young people. To register your child please contact the project co-ordinator Diane Haimeed on (0114) 303 0141

Remember... The Study Support Project could help your child improve by up to 2 grades at their GCSE's.



Youth Activities

The YCA has always offered a range of activities to young people. This has ranged from trips to theme parks such as Drayton Manor, visits to the museum, swimming at the Doncaster Dome and horse riding in the countryside.

From October to December 2009 we will be organising the following:

- Skiing
- Visit to Rother valley
- Lifeguard course
- Swimming
- Cinema trips
- Roller blading

If you want to get involved call Diane Haimeed on (0114) 303 0141



YCA-High Flyers Under 16's football team

The High Flyers is an Under 16's football team sponsored by the YCA. Training is on Saturdays at the Pitz Powerleague in Darnall. This takes place from 6pm till 8.30pm and all are welcome to attend training.

The team has now affiliated to Sheffield Junior District League. This is a citywide competitive Sunday football league.

If you want to be on the team: Pre-season started in the summer and this is when the team build their fitness and have the trials to see who will be in the squad. However everyone is still welcome to attend training.

Time: Saturdays 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Age: 9-16 year olds

Contact Yasar Mohamed on 07920 058 700 for more information.

YCA-Burngreave F.C. over 16's:

The YCA Burngreave Over 16's Football Club have been playing in the South Yorkshire Amateur League for 2 years



and are preparing to go into their 3rd year. In the first season they struggled and finished in a low position, but in the league cup they did very well, getting into the semi final. Last season they were very successful and they gained promotion by finishing 2nd in the league. They also got to the quarter final of the cup. They are now playing at Hinde House School and train on Monday nights at SUFC academy.

Anyone wanting to play for this club contact Khalid El-Hakli on 07702 813 252.

Qat in the Yemeni Community

How do we feel if people as young as 14 have started chewing? In Yemen such a sight is probably quite normal. However is this normal for young people in the UK? Young people in Sheffield are chewing qat, which is often bought for them by older brothers or fathers. Whilst qat has become an embedded part of the Yemeni culture how far should we promote this as a positive custom in Sheffield?

As someone who can speak first hand about this, I know that it can have harmful effects. I was addicted to qat and it was this addiction which led to other addictions and other psychological problems. I have been clean now for eleven months but this has been a difficult journey. Not many people will acknowledge that qat can be the root of problems and lead to other addictions. It has become a controversial issue and many of you will read this and be very passionate for qat or join me in a struggle to control the substance.

Is this something we want our children to do? Can we legitimately tell our children it is ok to chew when it has been confirmed by the World Health Organisation that Khat is a drug. It contains an amphetamine-like stimulant which is said to cause excitement, loss of appetite and euphoria. Yet if you ask any of the older generation 'is qat anything like amphetamines or cannabis' you will probably get into a long fruitless argument as they argue the benefits of the drug to persuade you they are not addicted mild drug users.



Researchers estimate that about 70% - 80% of Yemenis between the ages of 16 and 50 years old chew Qat, on at least one occasion

I have spoken to many agencies in Sheffield such as Breakthrough, MIND, Kickstart, the PCT and Sheffield City Council to get as much support and information as possible. I am not on a mission to ban the substance but to educate and inform as many people as possible and to make sure as a community we can provide as much alternative activities as possible to the future of the Yemeni community, the younger generation.

By Waheeb Mansoor Asker

Adult Learning

ESOL, Basic Skills and informal Adult Learning

The YCA has always aimed to improve the skills of its community. We deliver ESOL courses in partnership with the Sheffield College. The course which is delivered by qualified tutors runs from September through to July during term time for a total of 9hrs per week over 3 days.

Our ESOL courses are:

- Trinity accredited
- Recognised by the Home Office for those who are wanting to apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK.
- Culturally appropriate (separate classes for men and women)

We also deliver a range of informal adult learning courses aimed specifically at women, such as Dressmaking, Health and Beauty and Play to Learn courses. We are always delivering new courses. For an up to date programme or to enroll please come in or contact the project manager, Anesar Shaibi on (0114) 256 0933.



Hadfield Institute

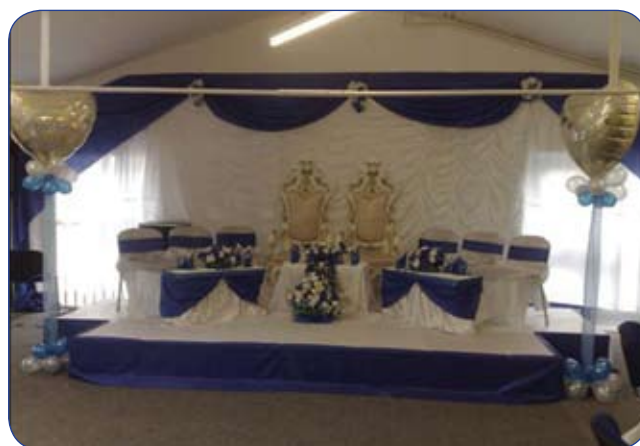
Hadfield is based in Attercliffe Vestry Hall. The building has a main hall that has been used for many years as an ideal venue for weddings, parties, conferences and even exhibitions. It has the capacity to hold up to 200 guests with an area to place the wedding stage. There is a decorating service available on site. To the rear of the hall contains a fully equipped kitchen to use.

Hadfield also delivers information, advice and guidance to individuals on training and employment. If you are looking for a job or want more information about any of Hadfield's activities, please contact us on the number below.

Hadfield's (formally known as the YETC) is an affiliate organisation of the YCA. It delivers IELTS, English training to International students, Vocational and Advanced Learning to individuals from the BME community. The organisation also delivers diversity training and management courses to external organisations not just in Sheffield but across South Yorkshire.

Tel: (0114) 261 8620

Email: contactus@hadfieldinstitute.co.uk



Other Work

The Elder People...

The YCA has spent the past 2 years lobbying for a specialist day care provision for older people. We recognised that there isn't a service that efficiently meets the needs of older people. Yet we know the valuable service our elder people have given the community.

If it wasn't for them and their hard work in the 60's many of us wouldn't be here today. The least we can do is make sure they have the same access to health and social care services. The Local Authority has finally recognised that there needs to be a specialist service for older people from Muslim communities.

This will mean that for several days a week, a facility will be provided for older people. We will tell you more about this in the next edition.



Eid Party

Food
Prize draw
& Gifts available
on the day!



Women only
Saturday 26th September 2009
From 5pm

At the Hadfield Institute
43 Attercliffe Common,
Sheffield S9 2AE

For further information, please contact (0114) 261 8620
or Email: contactus@hadfieldinstitute.co.uk

Tell us what you think!

VOTE

Do you think the YCA should change its name?

YES NO

If so what should we change it to?
Contact information is below



And Finally...

A big thank you to everybody involved in the production of this newsletter! In Particular Diana Yehia Shaibi, Hanaa Mustafa El Hachami and Arwa Hussein Atawi our communication and marketing team.

In this issue we have strived to promote the profile of the YCA, however if you have any stories that you would like to share with us, or would like to place an advertisement in future issues then please get in touch with us.

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Earl Marshal Road
Fir Vale
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(0114) 256 0933
Email: marketing_communication@hotmail.com

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Sheffield Health & Fitness Centre

Mon - Fri: 9am - 9pm
Sat & Sun: 9am - 4pm

We offer a strict ladies only policy every morning - 7 days a week. 9am - 12 noon strictly no men are allowed on the premises.

12 noon - 9pm weekdays and
12 noon - 4pm weekends

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Tel: 07771 754 515

Job Opportunities

Study Support Consortium Manager

REF: SSCM/0809
£29,250 (pro rata)
18.5 hrs

Presently funded to March 2010

The successful candidate will manage and sustain the successful Study Support Consortium Project

Performance & Monitoring Officer

REF:PMO08/09
£18,525 (pro-rata)
30 hrs per week

One year contract subject to renewal of funding
The successful candidate will monitor and drive contract compliance for all YCA projects

For an informal discussion for either of the posts, phone Ibtisam Mohamed on (0114) 303 0140.

For an application pack please contact:
Attn. Rosa Salim, Telephone: (0114) 256 0933
Or e-mail: rsalim@ycasheffield.co.uk

Closing Date for Applications:

12 noon on 11th September 2009

Older people's support worker

REF: OPSW/0909
£7phr 16 hrs pw
2 year contract

The successful candidate will support the development of day care facility for older people and organise activities according to the needs of the elders.

Deadline: 9th October 2009

For an informal discussion, phone Ibtisam Mohamed on (0114) 303 0140.

For an application pack please contact:
Attn. Rosa Salim, Telephone: (0114) 256 0933
Or e-mail: rsalim@ycasheffield.co.uk

Future Jobs Fund

If you are between 16-24 and are signing on at the jobcentre you may be eligible for employment either with the YCA or with different organisations we work with under the Future Jobs Fund.

This is only for 6 months but will give you vital work experience. For more information contact Ibtisam on (0114) 303 0140



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